Dear Families,

This is another big week for our community. I invite you all to join us for our Bingo Evening especially.

Our social skill this week is most aptly "Forgiveness". Christ teaches in in our reading last Sunday to forgive - knowing that we too are "without sin". Inability to forgive oneself is one of the most debilitating elements relating to guilt and anxiety. Our God forgives us unconditionally and always before we have forgiven ourselves. He calls on us to be as forgiving. Like many, I grew up thinking I had to earn God’s love. But clearly that is wrong. I have it. We have it. Now we are challenged to live up to that example. Easter is a time of rebirth in becoming more like Christ. Let us live his love.

Stephen Dowd
Principal

Social Skills Focus at MIPS

This fortnight’s Social Skill is: FORGIVENESS

• Learning how to forgive others and forgive ourselves when we make mistakes is an important quality.
• For example, when playing outside your best friend accidently trips you over. It is better to forgive that person for their action than hold a grudge and lose out on their friendship for a little while or in the long run. After all, one day you may become distracted and accidently trip someone over in the midst of playing. You would want them to forgive you rather than not play with you again.
• Forgiving ourselves for not being perfect and making mistakes and errors in judgement is very important.
• As we grow we also need to forgive ourselves for our errors in judgement so that we can learn from our mistakes and try new ways and solutions.
• Parent Links:
  *There are many ways to teach children to forgive others and themselves. You as a parent can choose ways that suit you as an individual and that fits your beliefs and values.
  *Through the Gospel reading this Sunday we understand how Jesus demonstrated forgiveness to the woman caught in adultery and the key message of seeking and accepting forgiveness.

Consider the following areas:
How do you show forgiveness to your child when they make a mistake?
How do you model forgiveness in your home and how do you work through family problems?
Lastly, your praise and encouragement have a tremendous impact on your child. When your child demonstrates forgiveness to others praise them as these positive messages reinforce a child's goodness, and will encourage more of the same.
Parish Based Sacramental Program

Registration Forms are now available from the Church Foyer and the Parish Office for those children who will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist. (Please note children need to have made their First Reconciliation to participate in this program.) These forms must be returned to the Parish Office or in the Parish Locked Box before Thursday 31 March. The first Parent Evening for the families involved in the program will take place on Thursday 31 March at 7.30pm in the Church.

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Please refer to the information sheet accompanying the Registration form for any queries or contact the Sacramental Coordinator or Parish Office on 9626 3326.

Email: sacramentalcoordinator@maryimmac.org.au

Our Annual Mary Immaculate Parents and Friends Association Family Bingo Night is on again!

Have some fun, play some games, and possibly take home a great prize!!!

Seats are limited, so be quick to secure your place.

When: Friday 18 March – 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start
Where: Mary Immaculate Multi-Purpose Area

Cost: Tickets are $10 for a family (max 2 adults and up to 4 children) - all other single entry tickets are $3 each

Book of 10 games $10
Single Game Sheets and Daubers $2

This is a BYO event (no alcohol permitted) with soft drinks, poppers and water available for purchase on the night as well as complimentary tea and coffee.

Single Game Sheets and Daubers $2

***Don’t forget your gold coins for additional games during the night***

Volunteering at Mary Immaculate Primary Child Protection Checks

As you know at Mary Immaculate Primary, we warmly welcome any parents or caregivers who are able to offer their time and skills in a voluntary capacity to assist the students in our school. We are required to ensure all volunteers working in our school comply with Child Protection policy and practice.

All volunteers working in the school are required to complete Child Protection workshop online every two years, through Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. This is a requirement for any volunteer and once the workshop is completed, the school is notified via email and then clears you to work in a voluntary capacity at Mary Immaculate for two years.

The address for this link is http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training

“Start the Module”. Once complete, an email will be sent to Mary Immaculate Primary notifying the school that training has been completed. We greatly value your help at the school and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed through the above website, please ask Mrs Sharon Mizzi or myself for clarification.

Free Old School Furniture

MIPS is seeking a person to remove old school furniture and scrap metal.

Please contact the school on 9626 3999 for further information.

Uniform shop trading hours

Normal trading hours will continue as normal

Tuesday 8.30 till 10.00am
Friday 8.30 till 10.00am.

We also do over the phone orders and online orders.

For any enquiries please contact - Elle
Phone: 0421216414
Email: elle@ozfashions.com.au
Parliament and Civics Education Rebate Program

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $<> per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

St Vincent de Paul Society

can you give an hour a week to help someone who is lonely? compeer within the st vincent de paul society matches volunteers in friendship with people living with a mental illness. your supportive friendship can make a real and long-lasting difference to your friend’s quality of life by reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and providing an opportunity to enjoy social outings together.

compeer volunteers spend one hour per week for 12 months with their new friend enjoying social activities in your local area (eg catching up over a coffee or taking a walk in the park – you can both decide together what you would like to do each week). no experience necessary as full training and support is provided.

due to our waiting list for participants in need of a friend, compeer is currently recruiting male and female volunteers aged 45 years and over. for more information please phone cathleen on 8622 0303, email compeer@vinnies.org.au or visit www.compeer.org.au

Nagle Netball Club

Nagle netball club is currently looking for, 6yrs, 7yrs, 8yrs and 10yrs players. New players are very welcome! Please contact Cassie 0400 136 629 or Lyn 0403 164 162

Canteen Roster

Reminder: The canteen is open for over the counter snacks and drink sales Monday and Tuesday. No lunches are available). Lunch orders are available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

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Gilroy College Musical

Performance Dates

Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th, Friday 6th, Saturday 7th May 2016

All shows start at 7pm, Doors open at 6:30pm

Tickets: Adult: $30 Concession: $20 Family: $80

College Homepage and during recess/lunch from March 2016

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We’re very excited to be fundraising with Entertainment™ this year. Order your NEW 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Books and Entertainment™ Digital Memberships from us today, and 20% of the proceeds contribute towards our School!

Order your new Entertainment™ Book or Entertainment™ Digital Membership before 5 April 2016 and you will receive over $130 worth of additional offers that you can use right away!

Entertainment™ Memberships are packed with thousands of up to 50% OFF and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, café, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel, and much more!

Available as a traditional Entertainment Book - or - Digital Membership on your smartphone, your Membership gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2017